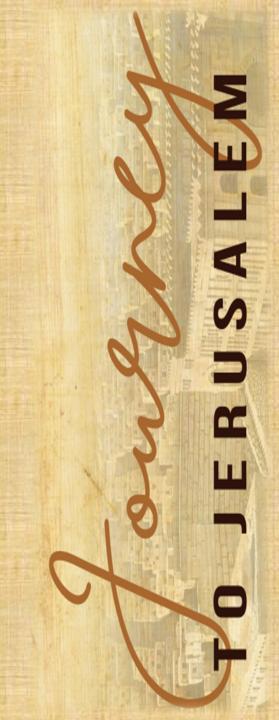


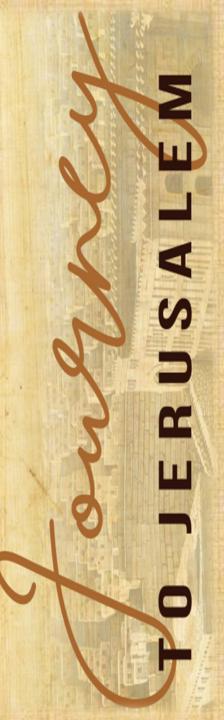
A Better Way



Matthew 16:21-28 (NLT) ²¹ From then on Jesus began to tell His disciples plainly that it was necessary for Him to go to Jerusalem,

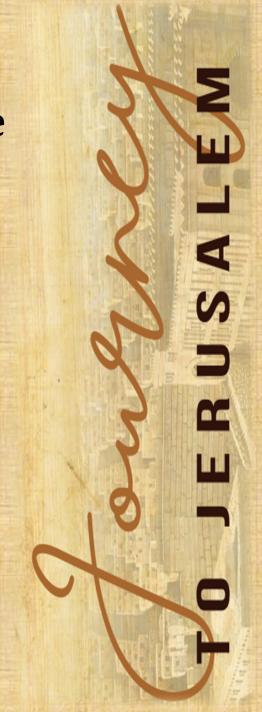


and that He would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day He would be raised from the dead.



Isaiah 53:2-6 (NLT)

My servant grew up in the Lord's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about His appearance, nothing to attract us to Him.



³ He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.

We turned our backs on Him and looked the other way.

He was despised, and we did not care.

⁴ Yet it was our weaknesses He carried; it was our sorrows that weighed Him down.

And we thought His troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for His own sins!



⁵ But He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.



⁶ All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.

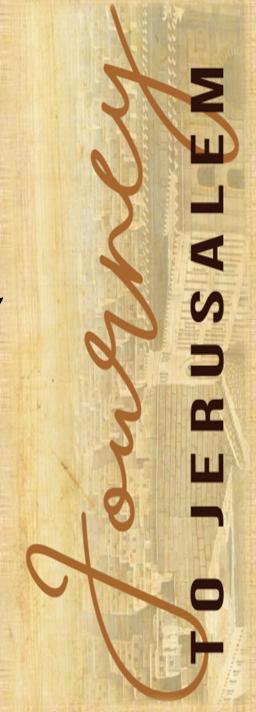
We have left God's paths to follow our own.

Yet the Lord laid on Him the sins of us all.



Matthew 16:21-28 (NLT)

²¹ From then on Jesus <u>began</u> to tell His disciples <u>plainly</u> that it was <u>necessary</u> for Him to go to Jerusalem, and that <u>He would suffer</u> many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. <u>He would be killed</u>, but on the third day <u>He would be raised</u> from the dead.



²² But Peter took Him aside and began to reprimand Him for saying such things. "Heaven forbid, Lord," he said. "This will never happen to You!"



²³ Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get away from Me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to Me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."



²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If any of you wants to be My follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow Me.



²⁵ If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for My sake, you will save it.



²⁶ And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?



²⁷ For the Son of Man will come with His angels in the glory of His Father and will judge all people according to their deeds.



²⁸ And I tell you the truth, some standing here right now will not die before they see the Son of Man coming in His Kingdom."



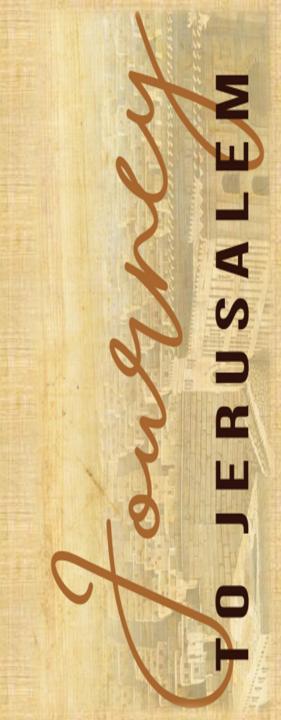
Isaiah 55:8-9 (NLT)

"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord.

"And My ways are far beyond anything you could imagine.



God doesn't always make sense!



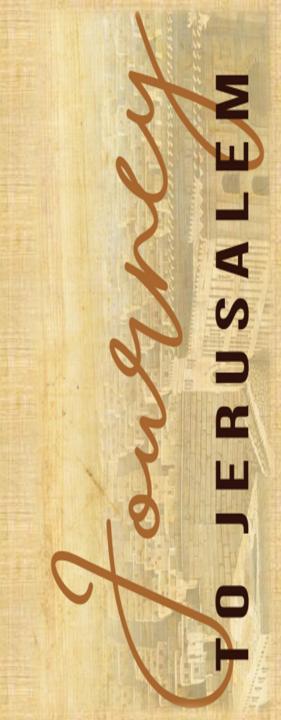
⁹ For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so My ways are higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts.



We must learn to trust The Lord, even when it doesn't make sense.



Galatians 5:25 (NIV)
Since we live by the Spirit,
let us keep in step with
the Spirit.



Romans 15:13 (NLT) I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NLT) "But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water.

Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.



Where do you need to trust the Lord more?

